

tinuing enthusiastic support to the project. After a grant was obtained by CMERF from the Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, a program was drawn up and outstanding persons of vision and practical experience were enlisted as discussants. The program also made provision for a large attendance by persons who were not to be active participants but who wished to be present as observers and reporters.

As we began by saying, we cannot know at this writing any of the details of what the meeting brought forth. We do know, however, that the fact that such a meeting was held is of resounding importance. The thought processes given impetus there will play a large part in shaping the changes in medicine that are taking place now and that are yet to come.

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## Not to Take a Total Loss

OUR WARM GOOD WISHES go with William Whelan as he leaves the employ of the California Medical Association to become executive director of the California Hospital Association. In his almost ten years of service with CMA, Bill Whelan showed himself to be not only an outstanding general executive but to have extraordinary capabilities in the fields of medical socio-economics, legislation and governmental relations. In his job he brought together steadfastness to essential purpose, thorough realism in negotiation and a willingness to work as hard and as long as the interests of this medical association demanded.

These attributes and the excellent personal relations he has with all persons with whom he deals will now be turned primarily to the purposes of the California Hospital Association. Even so, we retain residual benefits from his years with us. And while we acknowledge a loss at Bill's departure, we believe that he carries with him an understanding and feeling of good will that cannot but further improve the good relationship that has developed between the CMA and the CHA in recent years.

We congratulate both the California Hospital Association and its new executive director.

## Veterinary Research

IT IS QUITE regrettable that the excellent symposium on research by veterinarians\* presented in Los Angeles occurred on a Saturday just before the annual meeting of the California Medical Association, when few physicians and few veterinarians could attend. The reported research was of a high order and provided much information which should be useful to physicians as well as to veterinarians, for there are many common denominators in human and animal medicine.

It was especially important to note some of the advantages of the veterinarian in experimentation. Animals are commonly used by physicians in contrived studies in which infection or injury are deliberately inflicted, in order to study a given phenomenon in the hope that information thus derived can be applied to human disease. The veterinarian, in addition to this experimental method, encounters experiments in nature in which he can follow disease, injury or genetic defects as they occur spontaneously.

Veterinarian experimental medicine has still other great advantages: Blood lines are usually known most exactly; information need not be obtained, as in human disease, from the usually inaccurately reported family history. The experimenter can breed patients selectively for the production of genetic alteration, heterozygotes or homozygotes as he may choose. He may not have to wait for his patient to die for he can determine the precise state at which to interrupt progress and obtain autopsy information. Informed consent is not necessary for the use of new therapy.

As there are many similarities between human and animal diseases and many common problems and concepts, the close association of the two new schools of medicine in California (Davis and Irvine) with schools of veterinary medicine will provide opportunities to both disciplines.

EDWARD B. SHAW, M.D.

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\*One of the three articles, Rabies—Suggested Indications for Treatment of Exposed Persons, appears in this issue, beginning on page 363. The other two will appear in succeeding issues.